Voice or Noise INDEX 2

call» 05 7
call» 06 35
call» 07 77
call» 08 121
call» 09 139
bonus chapter 170
Afterwords 169

Grrr...
nic
Bow wow! Woof!
FLAPPY?
Hospi
I'D HAD HIM FOR TEN YEARS.
IT ALL BEGAN WHEN FLAPPY WENT BERSERK.
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR A CURE, TAKING HIM TO DIFFERENT CLINICS AND VETERINARY HOSPITALS.
WHAT, REALLY?
AND IN THE PROCESS, I ENDED UP BEFRIENDING A VETERINARIAN.
I WAS SO COMFORTABLE AROUND HIM THAT I LET A CHILDHOOD MEMORY SLIP OUT..
YOU MET A TALKING CAT?
INTER-ESTING.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO AN EXPERT ON THE TOPIC.
A university professor might be kinda unapproachable
I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE.
If he talks to animals—
WHAT? HE CAN TALK TO ANIMALS?
Really?
HE COULD UNDER-STAND FLAPPY?
AND THAT'S HOW I...

Voice of Noise

I SHOWERED BEFORE I CAME OVER.
YOU SMELL LIKE A FRESHLY-BATHED CAT.
Heh heh
D-DO I?
sniff
YOU SMELL GOOD.
UH, NARU-SAWA-SAN?

WHO ARE YOU?
NARUSAWA NARUAKI.
...HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH DESTINY

SOME-TIMES NARU-SAWA-SAN BAFFLES ME.
GIVE US A MEOW.
WHAT?
Coochy-coochy
Um, no
C'mon. Meow!
LISTEN WHEN I'M TALKING!
NARUSAWA-SAAAN.
HM?
ALL THE PROBLEMS WE'VE FACED..
AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH...
WHY?

THAT'S HOW I GOT HERE.
...OF MY CURRENT SITUATION.
UM... BUT...
...I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO MAKE...

Beats me
HEY, NARUSAWA-SAN?
IT'S A CAT'S JOB TO SLEEP.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
DO YOU THINK IT'S A COMA?
IS IT NORMAL TO SLEEP ALL DAY?
ACHT? HEY, ACHT!
HEY, ACHT!
HE HASN'T EVEN GOTTEN UP TODAY.
AND THAT SUMS UP OUR RELATIONSHIP.
YOU'RE IGNORING ACHT!
NARUSAWA-SAN! YOU'RE IGNORING THE REAL ISSUE!
WHEN DID WE GET SO TOUCHY-FEELY?
I'M UPSET, AND YOU'RE PRETENDING NOTHING'S WRONG!
YOU KNOW WHAT!
WHAT'S THAT?
THE OLD ACHT WOULDN'T BE SILENT NOW.
THAT'S MY SEAT!
NARUSAWA, YOU JERK!
Move it!
HE'D MAKE A HUGE FUSS.
Heh.
BUT I CERTAINLY AM SPOILING HIM.
THAT'S WHAT HE'D SAY.
SHIN-CHAN, QUIT SPOILING HIM! HE'S ALREADY A BRAT!
Sheesh!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THAT!
Humph!
...ACHT HASN'T SPOKEN A WORD.
EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT...
SO SILENT...
AREN'T YOU CONCERNED?
NOT REALLY.
.....

AT FIRST...
UH--
SURE.
Y'KNOW.
...IT'S AWFULLY QUIET HERE.
23
CAN I HAVE SOME HOT TEA?
YOU GOT IT.
...I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A FRONT.
...WHEN HE SAID HE WASN'T WORRIED ...
YOU'RE PRETTY UPPITY, ORDERING ME TO MAKE YOU TEA.
Here
THANKS.
Ha ha ha
NARUSAWA-SAN?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST HIS MANNER OF SPEAKING.
THAT ACHT WAS PART OF HIS FAMILY.
HE SAID HE WASN'T ACHT'S OWNER.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE.
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING.
BUT MAYBE HE WAS SERIOUS
WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
Oops
NARUSAWA-SAN
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
I'LL TAKE THIS OVER NOISY BITCHING AND MOANING ANY DAY.

YOU'RE THE SPECIAL ONE, ACHT.
Yaaawn
SHIN-CHAN, SHIN-CHAN!
YOU'RE A SPECIAL PERSON, SHIN-CHAN. YOU CAN FORGIVE NARUNARU.
.....
HURRY UP AND COME HOME.
ACHT?
mew...
HEY.
IT'S SO QUIET. I'M BORED.
I THOUGHT HE LIVED WITHIN THE LINES HE DREW.
IS IT POSSIBLE?
IT'S MORE THAN THAT. HE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON...
...WHOSE LINES CUT OFF HIS TERRITORY FROM THE WORLD OUTSIDE.
ACHT.
I'M HAPPY THAT HE LET ME INSIDE, BUT...
WAKE UP, ACHT.
ACHT.
DR. IKEGAMI HAS COME BEARING GIFTS!
...OH.
YO!
HE WOULDN'T, RIGHT?
HE COULDN'T.
twitch
...ABANDON ACHT?
DOES HE PLAN TO...

SHIN-ICHIRO'S AWFULLY SLOW
Who said? "He" should mind his own business
I SEE.
Mm...
It's a fake cigarette. My mouth was lonely
OR, AT LEAST I'M TRYING.
HE SAID THE SMOKE STUNK UP HIS CLOTHES, SO I QUIT.
HUH?
WHERE'RE YOUR USUAL SMOKES?
.....
UH... SHIN-ICHIRO?
I LEFT A SIX-PACK IN THE CAR COULD YOU GO GET IT?
Aham!
SURE!
NA-RU-SA-WA !!
YOU'RE GIVING ALCOHOL TO A MINOR?
WHAT?
HE'S HELPING ME WITH MY HOMEWORK.
Welcome!
WHA--?!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?!
Gasp!
WHAT?!
You came here to check on him, right?
NO! NOT AT ALL! OH, I'LL GO GET ACHT.
I'D RATHER EAT YOUR COOKING, NARUGAWA-SAN.
I have no sense of taste!
Ha ha ha!
HAVE YOU LEARNED TO COOK YET?
Just Married!
HEY, YOU TWO...
AM I IN THE WAY HERE?
You've changed, Haru-sawa.
YEAH.
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU DO THAT ALL THE TIME.
Snuggling from behind like that?!
WH-WH-WH--
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
HUH?
BUT I WON'T LET YOU BORROW HIM!
IT'S REALLY COMFORTABLE THAT WAY. FEELS GOOD!

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
ANYWAY, I LIKE IT BETTER HERE.
He he
You're underage Is this legal?
?
It's my responsibility for introducing you two
SHIN-ICHIRO.
ABOUT ACHT...
OH! YEAH?
.....
DOCTOR?
I'M NOT GOING HOME YET.
IT'S ALREADY EVENING.
I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY HOMEWORK
FLAPPY'S HERE, SO WE'LL WALK HOME TOGETHER.
UH
SHIN-ICHIRO?
きょとん
HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR PARENTS?
TOLD THEM WHAT?
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR KIDS TO SOCIALIZE WITH PEOPLE THEIR OWN AGE.
HUH? MY FRIENDS ARE TOO BUSY STUDYING TO HANG OUT.
Sob!
The kid can't see me as anything but a vet
Heh heh heh
POOR IKE-GAMI.
!
HUH?
LEAVING ALREADY?
HMM?
YEAH.
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME. HOP IN.

THEN...
"SHIN-CHAN..."
...WHERE DID ACHT GO?
WILL HE EVER COME BACK?
WILL THE REAL ACHT RETURN?
I CAN'T EXPECT NARUSAWA-SAN TO HELP.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT!
Why'd he say no?
Permission denied !!
NO!
YOU WANT TO TAKE ACHT HOME WITH YOU?
HE'S IGNORING ACHT!
DEFINITELY, NO HELP.
HUH?
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
LET ME BE FRANK. I'M AN OUTSIDER HERE.
...SO I CAN ONLY GUESS HOW HE'S CHANGED.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO HEAR ACHT'S VOICE...
I SEE.
YEAH, HE DID.
SO ACHT SEEMED LIKE AN ORDINARY CAT TO YOU?
You can't treat an illness you can't understand
I GET IT NOW.
OH...
GET IT?
AS A VETERINARIAN, THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU.
HIS PHYSICAL INJURIES HAVE HEALED.

WOOF! WOOF!
KYAAH!
WHAT THE--?
THAT WAS HOW IT ALL STARTED.
GASP!
THAT CROW...
IT'S THE STALKER!
He's still following me
I forget
WELL, I ALMOST FORGOT...
...BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET!!
ACHT.
WHAT ABOUT NOW? ARE YOU LESS LONELY NOW?
twitch
Grrr!
Woof!
HUH?
Bow
Woof!
wow!
FLAPPY!
I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON.
ACHT WAS SO...
...SO LONELY, LONELY, LONELY.
SO TERRIBLY LONELY...
...I CAN'T BEAR IT.

HEH HEH HEH HEH...
FIRST YOU BEGGED FOR LESSONS, THEN YOU REFUSED THEM!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!
Ouch
YOU'VE GOT A SHORT ATTENTION SPAN. I'LL TEACH YOU...
BUT...
One-Hand Block!
Okay?
Okay?
FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.
I'M SOOOOO SORRY!
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO START UP AGAIN?
SO?
THIS KID...
GIVE ME A CHANCE.
COME ON. DON'T BE DIFFICULT!
Okay?

I WANT YOU TO TRAIN ME AGAIN!
...WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SO...
LISTEN, SHINICHIRO...
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!
PRETTY PLEASE WITH A CHERRY ON TOP!
ふかふか
.....

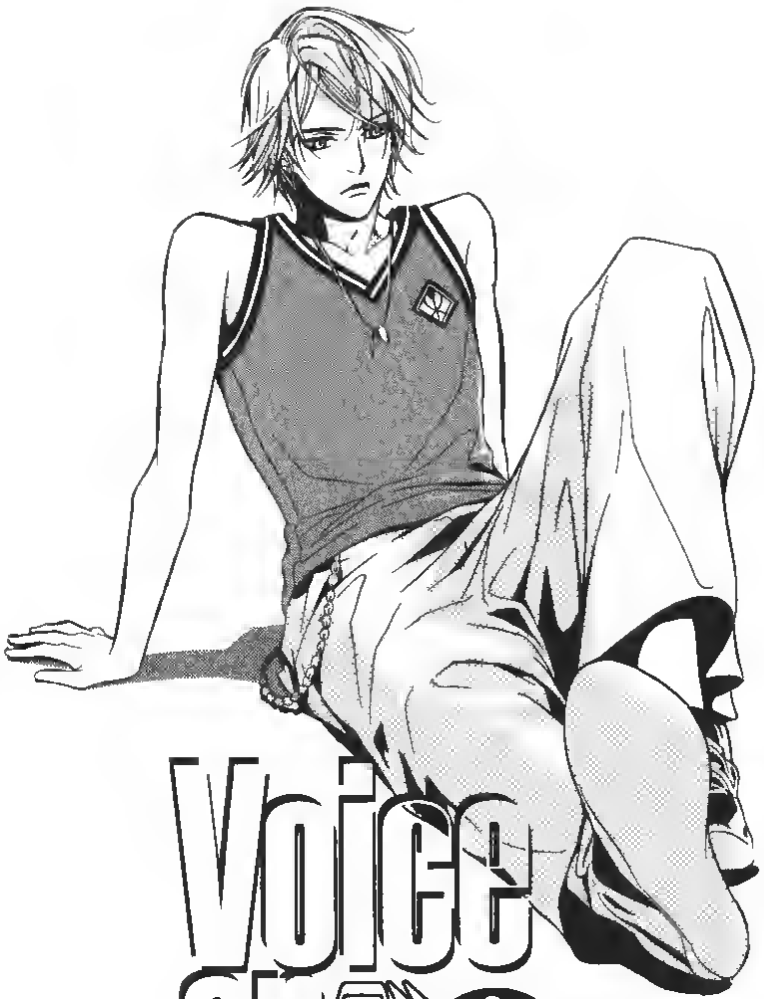
SO...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NARUSAWA-SAN?
.....
...THEN MAYBE ACHT AND I WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK AGAIN, TOO.
I CAN'T TALK TO ALL ANIMALS LIKE YOU CAN, BUT...
I...
WELL...
WAIT...
HOLD ON, GIVE ME A SECOND TO EXPLAIN.
MOSTLY, IT WAS ACHT.
Sigh
IT MIGHT BE A WASTE OF EFFORT.
THE WORD "WASTE" IS NOT IN MY DICTIONARY!
I erased it!
THERE'S NO EVIDENCE SUPPORTING YOUR HYPOTHESIS.
BUT IT'S THE ONLY IDEA I HAVE! I'VE GOT TO TRY IT!
OKAY?
MAYBE OUR BRAINWAVES ARE TUNED TO THE SAME FREQUENCY, SO HE AND I ARE COMPATIBLE.
SO I THOUGHT...
...I COULD TALK TO ACHT, RIGHT?
LIKE YOU SAID, THAT COULD BE THE TALENT I WAS BORN WITH.
...AND LEARN TO TALK WITH OTHER ANIMALS...
BUT IF I TRAIN HARD...

THAT'S IT.
FIRST LESSON!
WHAT IS IT?
AOJUST.. ENVIRON-MENT
Mm hm!
LESSON ONE ADJUST YOUR ENVIRONMENT
WHAT? THAT'S IT?!
That's it?
THERE ISN'T?
THERE'S NO STANDARD CURRICULUM
THIS ISN'T SOME ANCIENT SKILL PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
WHAT'S UP?
I CAN'T DO THIS.
It's bringing back bad memories
Hmm
THEN HOW DO I "ADJUST THE ENVIRON-MENT"?
IT FEELS TOO WEIRD.
REMEMBER WHEN YOU LEARNED TO ALTER YOUR SENSES?

I CAN'T RESIST YOU.
YAY!
NOW, FOR YOUR FIRST LESSON.

WOW.
Hah
OKAY?
WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TALK EACH OTHER.
THIS TIME WE'LL COMMUNICATE BETTER.
THE REAL SHINICHIRO.
INNOCENT AND ARROGANT, LIKE ALL CHILDREN... BUT LESS SO THAN MOST.
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO HIM...FOND OF HIM.
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE, BUT...
IT'S NOT SO BAD
...I'M ALL SHOOK UP I'M RESTLESS
AND YET...
HE CONTAINS A PART OF ME.

What a hassle
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I DON'T FEEL LIKE TEACHING YOU.
NO WAY!
HUH?
WHAT?!
IT WAS TRAUMATIC TO GET SCOLDED BY YOU LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT YOUR LAB RAT!
NARUSAWA-SAAAN!
BUT, BUT!
YOU DIDN'T EXPLAIN ANYTHING TO ME.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?



Voice or Noise

call»05

YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN.

Hee hee

Mm-hm

SPRING'S ON ITS WAY.

YOU HEAR THE BIRDS' VOICES?

TWEET

TWEET

YEAH! BIRDS' VOICES!

ONE DAY SHINICHIRO WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW THEIR RELATIONSHIP HAD CHANGED...

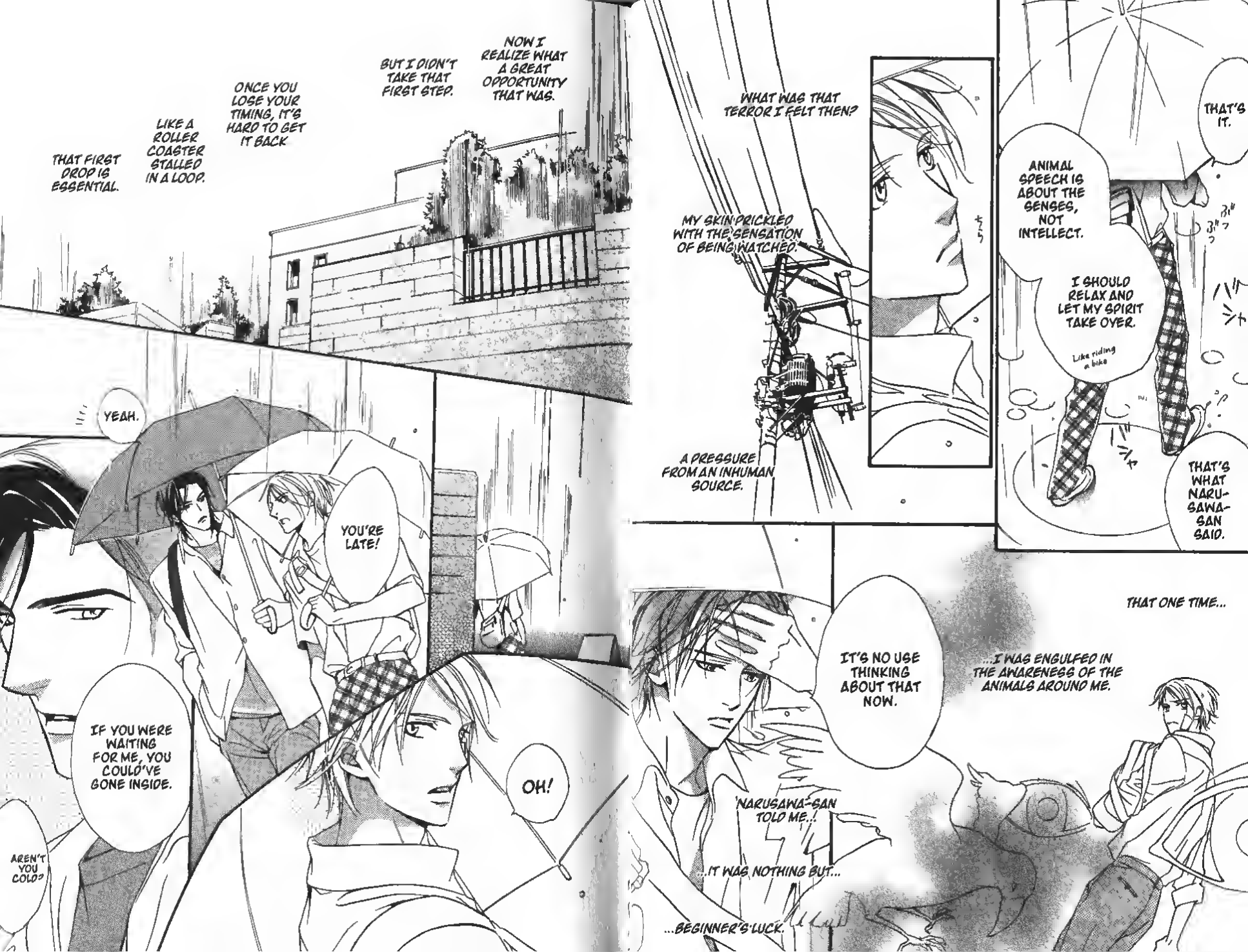
...BUT THAT TIME WAS YET TO COME.

FOR THE TIME BEING, IT SEEMED LIKE A FRESH START.

call»05 END

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU SQUATTING IN THE GUTTER. YOU HAVE WAY TOO MUCH FREE TIME.
WHAT WAS THAT--?
OH! TAKAHASHI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Yeow!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
WAIT --
MEOOOW.
NYAAAAOW?
WHY?
I WANT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
.....
...HUH?
I'M LOOKING FOR GOOD PLACES WHERE DOGS AND CATS GATHER.
WHERE DO THE CATS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD HANG OUT?
You live in West District
GREAT TIMING! LISTEN.
MEO--
HEY, WAIT!
OH RIGHT, YOU'RE AN ANIMAL LOVER.
MM, THAT'S NOT WHY I'M DOING IT.
IT'S PART OF MY TRAINING. SORTA
TRAINING?

.....
WHAT SHOULD..
...I DO?
"DON'T RUSH. EVENTUALLY, IT'LL COME TO YOU."
LIKE IT WAS NORMAL
ACHT AND I...
...COULD TALK SO EASILY.
"SO I FELL OFF THE ROOF, RIGHT?" AND DID A TRIPLE FLIP IN MIDAIR."
"IT WAS LIKE AN ACT OF GOD!"
EVEN IF I COULD HEAR THE VARIATIONS OR SENSE THEIR FEELINGS"
IT WOULDN'T BE A CONVERSATION.
BUT ALL I CAN HEAR ARE MEOWS.
NO MORE, NO LESS.
Tell me if you find any!
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
Right
I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT.
I wonder if he's all right
ニヤッ
YEP!
I'M STUDYING CAT-SPEAK!
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
NARUSAWA-SAN IS AT SOME FACULTY MEETING
IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK
I'LL WALK A LITTLE FARTHER.
I ALREADY KNOW ALL THE CATS AROUND HERE.


THAT FIRST DROP IS ESSENTIAL.
LIKE A ROLLER COASTER STALLED IN A LOOP.
ONCE YOU LOSE YOUR TIMING, IT'S HARD TO GET IT BACK
BUT I DIDN'T TAKE THAT FIRST STEP.
NOW I REALIZE WHAT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY THAT WAS.
YEAH.
YOU'RE LATE!
IF YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME, YOU COULD'VE GONE INSIDE.
AREN'T YOU COLD?
OH!
WHAT WAS THAT TERROR I FELT THEN?
MY SKIN PRICKLED WITH THE SENSATION OF BEING WATCHED.
A PRESSURE FROM AN INHUMAN SOURCE.
THAT'S IT.
ANIMAL SPEECH IS ABOUT THE SENSES, NOT INTELLECT.
I SHOULD RELAX AND LET MY SPIRIT TAKE OVER.
Like riding a bike
THAT'S WHAT NARUSAWA-SAN SAID.
THAT ONE TIME...
IT'S NO USE THINKING ABOUT THAT NOW.
...I WAS ENGULFED IN THE AWARENESS OF THE ANIMALS AROUND ME.
NARUSAWA-SAN TOLD ME..!
...IT WAS NOTHING BUT...
...BEGINNER'S LUCK.

TIME GOES ON AND ON.
NOW SUMMER'S ON ITS WAY.
I'M FIFTEEN NOW, AND IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I'VE GROWN FOUR INCHES SINCE THAT SUMMER.
IT WAS SUMMER WHEN I MET ACHT AND NARUSAWA-SAN.
A LITTLE.
I KNOW I'M IMPATIENT.
WANT TO GET SOME RAMEN? IT'S BEEN A WHILE
YEAH! Totally!
I want the Ichiran ramen
There's no point going together if you always get the same thing
HE KEEPS SAYING NOT TO RUSH. BUT TIME DOESN'T STOP FOR YOU.
REALLY?
THEY SAY THIS RAINY SEASON WILL BE A LONG ONE.
WHEN THE RAINY SEASON'S OVER, IT'LL BE SUMMER.
Narunaru, keep going!
IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE ACHT STOPPED TALKING.
Meow
ON MARCH 3RD SAME AS THE GIRL'S FESTIVAL
WHEN IS ACHT'S BIRTHDAY?
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT WHITE FOR HIS BIRTHDAY?
HEY.
WE ALREADY MISSED IT!

BURIED?
?
I BET HE'S STILL GOT SOME BURIED IN THE GARDEN.
THAT CHEESE I GAVE HIM...
YOU'RE SO DISTRACTED TODAY.
I'M TIRED OF WORK.
ANOTHER BREAK?
SCHRÖ-DI-WHAT?
HE CALLED IT HIS "SCHRÖDINGER BOX."
"I PUT IT IN MY SCHRÖDI BOX."
"YOU CAN'T OPEN IT, NARUNARU."
IT WAS...
...HIS TREASURE.
HE PUTS HIS VALUABLES IN A BOX...
ACHT'S GOT SOME CANINE HABITS.
...AND BURIES IT.
HE GOT SOMETHING LAST YEAR.
I STACKED EXPENSIVE TOFU LIKE A LAYER CAKE, AND PUT A CANDLE ON TOP
AND GAVE HIM A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF BRIE DE MEAUX
That's a cheese
HE FELT LIKE A PRINCE ALL DAY.
Oh!
I MEANT HIS LAST ONE
HE LIKES WHITE FOOD.
THAT EXPLAINS THE FISH PASTE.
Purr Purr
I WISH I'D GIVEN HIM A GIFT THIS YEAR.

Phew
Just one
CIGAR-ETTE?
Fine One
IS THAT TRUE.
ACHT?
Ah.
...ACHT USED TO HAVE AN OWNER.
I SHOULD TELL YOU...
WHAT?!

WHEN ACHT HEARD THAT...
...HE LAUGHED AND SAID...
..."IT'S A BOX OF POSSI-BILITIES."
Dead and Alive
Hmm
WAS THE POISON GAS RELEASED OR THE CAT NOT?
GAS DETECTION DEVICE—THE RELEASE OF THE POISON HAPPENS RANDOMLY
THE CAT MIGHT BE DEAD OR ALIVE. YOU CAN'T TELL UNLESS YOU LOOK INSIDE
SCHRODINGER ARGUED THAT THE CAT WAS NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE, BUT THAT BOTH POSSIBILITIES EXISTED AT THE SAME TIME
ALSO KNOWN AS "SCHRÖDINGER'S CAT." IT'S A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT.
...EVEN THE THOUGHT OF DEAD CATS.
A NORMAL CAT WOULD HAVE HATED..
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED WHAT A STRANGE LITTLE GUY HE WAS.
THAT WAS HOW WE MET.

YEAH.
I didn't know
WELL...
ACHT..
IT'S A SHOCK... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT STORY.
I'M NOT SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T KNOW, SHINICHIRO.
IF ACHT HAD TOLD YOU, HE'D HAVE HAD TO FACE IT HIMSELF--HIS OWNER THREW HIM OUT.
HE PUT THAT KNOWLEDGE IN A BOX, AND BURIED IT IN HIS HEART.
HE TRIED TO DENY THE TRUTH.
ANYONE WOULD FEEL THAT WAY, RIGHT?
THE DANGER ZONE BETWEEN 0 AND 1. BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

"HE'S LOOKING FOR A HOME, SO..."
WHEN HE MOVED TO A RETIREMENT HOME, HE ASKED ME TO TAKE ACHT.
HE LIVED ACROSS FROM ME
A GEEZER IN HIS NINETIES
THAT'S HOW I ACQUIRED A CAT.
YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH?
.....
WHAT'S THAT FACE FOR?
NO WAY.
I REALIZE NOW...
..IKEGAMI HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, TOO

Sigh
I NEED TO LEARN TO SPEAK WITH ANIMALS SOON.
OR ELSE...

YOU'RE HOME EARLY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRIEND, THE PROFESSOR?
...HE'S BUSY PACKING FOR A TRIP.
OH. UH...
OH! HOW LONG WILL HE BE GONE?
A WEEK.
BUT...
Cough
...WON'T YOU MISS HIM, SHIN-CHAN?
OR ELSE... WHAT?
I HAVE TO HURRY...
SHIN-ICHIRO? DINNER'S READY.
OKAY, MOM.
THERE'S A PAIN IN MY HEART. AN UNEASINESS...

NOW IT HURTS TOO MUCH...
...WHEN I LOOK INTO ACHT'S EYES.

IS HE...
OR NOT?
...THE REAL ACHT?
IF HE'S THE REAL ACHT...
I CAN'T ESCAPE THESE DISTURBING THOUGHTS
I HAVE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD

YEAH...
I BEGGED ACHT TO TELL ME ABOUT HIS PAST.
I KEPT TRYING TO FORCE MY WAY PAST HIS RELUCTANCE.
BUT...
...DID I REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

Phew...
すー
すー
INFINITE INFINITIES? WHAT'S THAT?
DOES IT MEAN SOME-THING?
.....
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
I GUESS...
...I DO MISS HIM. A LITTLE.
I MISS SEEING HIM.
I'll miss my favorite pillow
Gaaah!
NARUSAWA-SAN CAN BE A LITTLE OUT THERE..
MM...

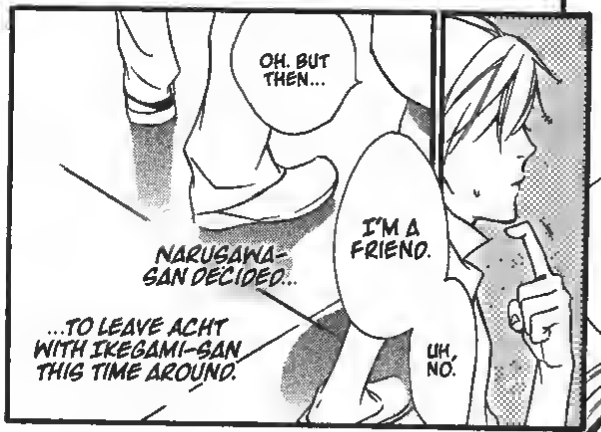
What are you talking about?!
"DON'T CRY BECAUSE YOU MISS ME SO MUCH."
"WHY WOULD I CRY?!"
"WHY WOULD I GO WITH YOU?!"
"WELL, WE COULD GO TOGETHER?"
NOT REALLY.
Sheesh
WON'T I MISS HIM?
HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I AM?
THAT WAS DELICIOUS!
I WONDER IF HE WANTED TO DISTRACT ME.
NOW, TAKE YOUR BATH.
MAYBE...
HEH HEH, HOW THOUGHT-FUL.
DO YOUR HOMEWORK WHILE I'M GONE.
CONSIDER HOW MANY INFINITIES ARE CONTAINED IN INFINITY.
Huh?
WHAT?
Infinite whozat?
.....

SHINI...
RO.
WAKE UP.. OPEN UP
~~CHIRO. SHINICHI... RO.
WHO IS IT?
WHAT--?
WAKE UP! HURRY!
BUT WHO ARE YOU?
Shut up!
SHIN-ICHIRO HELP..
SHIN-ICHIRO GET UP!
GASP!
HELP ME!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... ACHT?!
I CAN'T MOVE.
What's going on?
NO WAY.
HMM?
IT'S LIKE MY BODY HAS TURNED INTO A BALLOON.
MY EARS ARE RINGING.
OW! HELP!
I CAN FEEL EVERY TINY AIR CURRENT.
MY EARS HURT. THIS IS BIZARRE.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE SO EXCITED.
IS IT A MAGIC PARALYZING SPELL?
THIS IS A FIRST. AWESOME!
Nudge

FLAPPY'S BEEN ACTING UP AGAIN?
I SEE.
squirt
HMM?
Careful, doctor
Kaw
See the bites at the base of the wing?
FLAPPY TRIED TO SCARE IT AWAY, LIKE A GUARD DOG SHOULD.
THAT'S NOT IT!
ALL RIGHT. CALM DOWN.
FLAPPY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
IT'S TRUE! THIS CROW IS A STALKER!
IS THAT YOUR STORY?

click
YIKES!
WHAT?
HUH?
Kaw! Kaw!
BOW WOW! RUFF!
FLAPPY?
WHAT HAPPENED?

I WONDER IF HE'S DREAMING.
SOMETIMES HE MEOWS IN HIS SLEEP.
REALLY?
BUT HE'S FINE. LOOK HOW GLOSSY HIS FUR IS.
SO NOW HE'S ASLEEP.
I SEE.



AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING, I CAN SEE WHY.

NARUSAWA-SAN'S STRICT ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING.

PLUS, I ALREADY HAVE FLAPPY.

Oof.
sigh...
I'M FLAPPY'S OWNER...
...BUT NARUSAWA-SAN ISN'T ACHT'S OWNER.
HE TELLS ME TO TREAT ANIMALS AS EQUALS.
ACHT HAD AN OWNER ONCE.
I'M FRIENDS WITH ACHT...
...AND WITH FLAPPY, I'M...
sigh
I WISH I COULD PLAY WITH ACHT...
...JOKE AND CHAT LIKE WE USED TO.
HOLD HIM TIGHT AND SMELL HIS BELLY.
THAT'S ALL I WANT. AND IT'S SO FAR OUT OF REACH.
IT'S TOUGH NOW
MAYBE I'M TEETHING
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING

AH.
NARUSAWA-SAN WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
THIS RATTY OLD APARTMENT USED TO BELONG...
...TO ACHT'S OWNER.
HE LEFT ACHT BEHIND.
HIS OWNER...
THE STARS ARE SO PRETTY
I WONDER IF NARUSAWA-SAN'S WATCHING THEM NOW
ONE WEEK IS A LONG TIME.
Whose voice was that this morning?
I'm lost without Narusawa-san.
And Tokyo's so far away
I'M IN THAT STRANGE PLACE AGAIN.
HUH?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
NO GRASSY FIELD.
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
AND NO WOLF.

WHOA...
AM I WALKING ON WATER?
Awesome. It's see-through
DREAMS ARE SO WEIRD.
HUH?
CAN'T FIND WHO?
THE OLD MAN. MY OWNER.
I CAN'T FIND HIM.
SHEESH. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD I LOOK HE'S NOT AROUND
I COULDN'T FIND HIM IN THIS WORLD EITHER, SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER.
GUESS I CAN'T BLAME HIM HE WAS PRETTY OLD.
OH, SO YOU WERE OUT SEARCHING
ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR HIM?
HMM...
I CAN'T FIND HIM.
Haaah...
OH MY GOD!
ACH--!!
Acht!

REALLY?
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS FOR PETS AND OWNERS!
YEAH!
I KNOW. I KNOW THAT, BUT...
...YEAH.
THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT WITH FLAPPY, RIGHT, SHIN-CHAN?
COULD YOU SPEAK WITH HIM, TOO, ACHT?
BUT EVEN WITHOUT WORDS, YOU CAN GET YOUR FEELINGS ACROSS.
HMM? OF COURSE NOT.
...IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR ME. WHY DOES IT SUDDENLY BOTHER ME?
SO...
BUT MAYBE HE'S WAITING FOR ME TO COME TO HIM.
THAT MAKES ME A GOOD GUY, DOESN'T IT? LIKE, HEROIC!
SEE HOW LONG I'VE WAITED FOR THE OLD MAN?

WHY ARE YOU WAITING FOR HIM?
Nya ha ha
WHY?
THAT'D BE IRONIC.
LIKE A FATHER WAITING AND WAITING FOR HIS SON TO COME PICK HIM UP.
HMM?
YOUR EX-OWNER, YOU MEAN.
UH, BECAUSE... HE'S MY OWNER.
HE'S NOT YOUR OWNER ANY MORE. HE'S NOTHING TO YOU.
HE ABANDONED YOU!

"HE KEEPS IT SAFE AND SECURE, SO THAT HIS BOX WON'T OPEN."
"BURIED INSIDE HIS HEART."
AH...
OH!
"AS LONG AS THE BOX ISN'T OPENED, THEN THE CAT ISN'T DEAD."

I used to wander around aimlessly. But now I think I may be getting close.
I'M FINALLY GETTING SERIOUS.
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T COME HOME YET IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOUR OLD MAN.
I GET IT.
SHIN-CHAN?
NEVER MIND. GO ON.
IT REALLY BOTHERED ME. SO WHEN I SEE HIM, I'LL TELL HIM OFF.
Hachi (Japanese) = 8 = Acht (German) It's silly
HOW I TOLD YOU THAT MY NAME MEANS "8" IN GERMAN?
THE OLD MAN WANTED A DOG--A FAITHFUL DOG, LIKE HACHIKO.
What "accident"?
REMEMBER?
Hachiko was a dog who waited for his master at the Shibuya train station, even after the man died

Hah!
AH.
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHY...
WHY DID I HAVE TO SAY THAT?
THAT ENCOUNTER...
...WAS ONLY A DREAM.
NO...
THAT'S NOT TRUE. WHAT DO I DO?
EH?
Uh-oh
WHY ARE YOU SO FRAZZLED?
Up late?
MOM?
CAN I BORROW SOME MONEY?

YOU SURPRISED ME.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SEE ME.
Creak
High Pressure Condensed Matter Physics Seminar 1 Assembly Hall
ギュー
Huff
SHIN-ICHIRO?
Whew
NARU-SAWA-SAN.

IT'S AMAZING. HOW DID YOU KNOW?
Heh
THAT'S AWFUL, NARUSAWA-SAN.
O MASTER OF SCREW-UPS.
WHAT? DON'T YOU WANT TO BABBLE ABOUT HOW DEPRESSED YOU ARE?
I'VE BEEN SO AFRAID.
WHEN I LOOK AT ACHT, IN HIS SILENCE...
...EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.
LIKE NOTHING WAS REAL, OR MEANINGFUL.
LIKE THIS...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT MUCH.
I...
I ONLY WANTED...
I ONLY WANTED...
...ACHT TO COME HOME.
YOU SAY I'VE GOTTEN TALLER.
AND I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW.
BUT I DON'T FEEL ANY MORE MATURE.
WHAT IF HE NEVER COMES BACK?
I TURN TO NARUSAWA-SAN FOR HELP AT EVERY TURN.
I WONDER WHY?
WHY DOES HE PUT ME AT EASE?
WHY?
NARUSAWA-SAN...

Call 06 END

FOR SOME REASON, NARUSAWA-SAN LIKES TO HOLD ME LIKE A PILLOW WHEN HE SLEEPS.
SO...
...I GET LOTS OF CHANCES TO SEE HIS SLEEPING FACE UP CLOSE.
WHEN MORNING COMES...

Voice of Noise

Voice or Noise
07
WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
...I KEEP WATCHING THAT FACE.
THE SUNLIGHT CASTS SHADOWS...
..THAT I FOLLOW WITH MY EYES.
TRACKING THEIR SLOW AND STEADY PROGRESS.
A CONSTANT RUMBLE...
ALWAYS THERE.
A CONSTANT ITCH...
THERE'S A FEELING DEEP IN MY HEART...
...THAT NEVER STOPS...
...OR SETTLES DOWN.

SHIN-ICHIRO?
I'LL GET THE LUGGAGE. YOU GO ON AHEAD.
HERE'S THE KEY.
CLINK
HERE.
"HE ABANDONED YOU!"
STILL, I...
I...
I REALLY SAW ACHT.
NAKU-SAWA-SAN, I...
...DON'T THINK IT WAS A DREAM.
地下鉄
K's Art
ODAYOU
I'LL TAKE THAT ONE
A ROOM WITH TWO BEDS, PLEASE
SHIN-ICHIRO, LET'S GO TO THE ROOM.
YEAH
WHAT ARE YOU BROODING ABOUT NOW? IT'S STILL BOTHERING YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
JUST GO TO IKEGAMI'S PLACE.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YEAH
HE'S WITH IKEGAMI-SAN NOW.
ACHT IS STILL ACHT.
EVEN IF HE CAN'T TALK, I CAN STILL TREAT HIM LIKE ACHT.
IT'S HARD, BUT...
NARUSAWA-SAN DOES THAT NATURALLY.

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH.
WHAT YOU TOLD HIM WASN'T THAT BIG A DEAL.
OH?

NOT TO ACHT.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SAID THAT...
YOU MEANT THE SCHRODINGER BOX STORY AS A WARNING TO ME

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. HOW DO I DO THAT?
JUST APOLOGIZE THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE HIM.
IT WAS A SCREW-UP, RIGHT?
GOOD, NOW YOU'RE LEARNING.

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, NARUSAWA-SAN
IT IS SO. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SAID THAT!
I'M THE MASTER OF SCREW-UPS.

Bwa ha ha!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, FINDING YOU ON THE SAME FLOOR AS US!
C'MERE, C'MERE
WE FOUND YOU! TARGET DEAD AHEAD!
HUH? WHAT?
AH!
I DIDN'T BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
I WONDER IF NARUSAWA-SAN'S STILL OUT
I want to go to the convenience store
HUH?
YOU WENT HOME WITH NARUSAWA-SAN, RIGHT?
NOW, RELAX AND JOIN US!
Oooooh!
TA-DAAAH!
WE GOT HIM! OUR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR'S SECRET LOVE CHILD!
WHAT?!
WHAT LOVE CHILD?!
URK!
FLYING OUT WAS A CRAZY IMPULSE.
I SHOULD'VE WAITED FOR A FEW DAYS.
AN HOUR AND A HALF PLANE RIDE TO TOKYO.
I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THE TRAIN OR SUBWAY SYSTEMS.
Haaa
THAT WAS MY FIRST PLANE RIDE. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!
I'M EXHAUSTED
I FELT BETTER WHEN I SAW NARUSAWA-SAN.
.....

UH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY
YEAH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT SUCKS WHEN THE TEACHER'S HOTTER THAN THE STUDENTS.
UH...
THIS GUY'S A HOMO-THEORIZER--HE THINKS EVERYONE'S GAY.
Now, now, now!
NOOGIE!
WOW...
HUH?
MOST OF US ARE PROFESSOR NARUSAWA'S STUDENTS.
Let's see. One, two, three... About six of us
Don't chug it!
Hic!
Now, now, now
WE'RE FRIENDS FROM CLASS.
BUT THERE'RE STUDENTS HERE FROM OTHER COLLEGES, TOO.
I think
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
What's going on?!
DAMN!
NARUSAWA-KUN...
Homo theory?
...AH.
BY THE WAY, PROFESSOR TERADA CAUGHT NARUSAWA-SAN...
...SO HE WON'T BE BACK ANY TIME SOON.
He's a talker
Creep
Creep
Tromped
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KID?
MAN! WE'RE OUT OF SAKE!
SOMEBODY, GET MORE!
UH...
A COLLEGE PROFESSOR IN HIS TWENTIES IS STILL YOUNG.
COME ON. SIT DOWN.
Hmm
NARUSAWA-SAN'S STUDENTS... I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE IN THE CLASS-ROOM?
WHAT DO YOU DRINK?
WANT A BEER?
YOU LITTLE KID!
DESERTERS WILL BE SHOT!
I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY ROOM.
I don't like drunks
YOU THINK NARUSAWA-SAN'S HANDSOME?
HUH?
YOU'RE WHINING, SO YOU GO!
NAH, BUT THE WAY HE LOOKS...
UH... I HAVE TO GO.
Nngh
THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE RIGHT TIME TO ASK

Fascinated
DID HE BRING YOU HERE, TOO?
YOU COME BY THE COLLEGE FROM TIME TO TIME, DON'T YOU?
WHAT KIND OF FRIENDS ARE YOU TWO?
WHAT, WHAT?
UH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "BRING"?
I'M...
Little kid! Little kid! Little kid! Little kid! Little kid!
Echo.
Jerk.
What?
Ha ha!
Cash!
Shut up!
Quit calling me an illegitimate kid, or a little kid! It's rude!
...FRIEND!
I'M NARUSAWA-SAN'S...
GLUG GLUB
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
DRINK UP!
WE'VE GOT AN INNOCENT HIGH SCHOOLER HERE
TIME FOR LOVE GOSSIP!
ひょい
1, 2, 3, guess!
Excited over nothing.
LOVE GOSSIP!
Ha ha ha!
WHAT? THAT'S STUPID!
Yeah!
Oh!
WE DON'T BELIEVE IT!
LISTEN...
BUT, YOU KNOW...
Ha!
Grr!
Ha!
Plastered!
BWA HA HA!
WHEN SOMEONE'S TALK--
Friend

WHEN WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE?
FIRST LOVE...
WHOA!
.....
BUT WHAT IS IT?
Gasp! This is bad!
smirk
smirk
Tweet! Tweet!
LOOK AT HIM BLUSH!
HE'S STILL IN LOVE!
I WANT A DOSE OF SPRING FEVER!
Err
WHY DID I THINK OF NARUSAWA-SAN AT THE WORDS "FIRST LOVE"?
N-NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

AN ADVOCATE OF THE "NARUSAWA IS GAY" THEORY
BUT FEEL FREE TO TELL ME!
Privately!
OH.
You're just like the rest of them!
Hm?
EVERYONE'S GOT PRIVATE BUSINESS
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THEIR STUPID QUESTIONS
WHEN I PHRASE IT LIKE THAT, IT DOES SOUND STRANGE.
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH NARUSAWA-SAN...
GIVE ME A BREAK!
ONE SIMPLE QUESTION!
HEY, THAT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
AWW, IT'S OKAY IF YOU'RE STILL INNOCENT!
UH...
SO, HIGH SCHOOLER, WHEN DID YOU LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY?
YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL? BOY, YOU'RE YOUNG.
BUT. HOW DO I EXPLAIN THAT WE'RE MORE THAN FRIENDS?

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
ALL DONE FEELING LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO PUKE? DON'T HOLD BACK, JUST GIVE ME SOME WARNING
I'M SORRY I PUT YOU THROUGH THIS
Taking care of me
SORRY
NO PROBLEM I KINDA DRANK TOO MUCH, TOO
PSSSSH
I'D HOPED TO SEE SOME MARKS.
MARKS?
OH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UM...
HEY. KID.
WAKE UP. YOU NEED TO GET BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
C'MON.
GET UP.
MM...
NARUSAWA-SAN..?
WRONG ONE...
OKAY.
DON'T LOOK SO BLATANTLY DISAPPOINTED
STAND UP I'LL WALK YOU TO YOUR ROOM
WHERE'S NARUSAWA-SAN?
I DUNNO.
NAARUU GAA WAA
YEAH, YEAH.

YOU DIDN'T SAY TO STOP, SO I THOUGHT IT WAS OKAY.
JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW.
Ow
WHAT ?!
What would be okay?!
What the hell?!
?!
NNNNGH!
YES.
DON'T YOU DO THIS ALL THE TIME...
..WITH THE PROFESSOR?
...!
YOU A VIRGIN?
YOU'RE A BIT THICK.
FORE--?!
FORE-PLAY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO, YOU SHOULD'VE SAID.
SMOOCH
Mmf..
?
WHAT?
DO WHAT? WITH I...?!
YOUR SKIN FEELS GOOD.
SO SMOOTH AND SLEEK.
AND YOUR SOFT HAIR.. SO CUTE.
Hisss!
NUM-BER ONE: I'M A GUY!
AND YOU'RE A GUY!
HMM..
TOO BAD.
I GUESS THIS MEANS YOU'RE NOT DOING IT WITH THE PROFESSOR.

SORRY, BUT IT'S A POPULAR THEORY.
WE THINK IT'S YOUR INFLUENCE.
.....
SO YOU'RE SAYING...
...NARUSAWA-SAN CHANGED?
BECAUSE OF ME?
YEAH.
WHAT'S WITH THAT SUSPICIOUSLY HAPPY LOOK?
Heh

HE TAUGHT AT HIS OWN CRAZY PACE, EVEN IF HIS STUDENTS WERE TOTALLY LOST.
I'VE ONLY KNOWN HIM SINCE HE CAME TO OUR SCHOOL, BUT...
BY THE WAY...
OUR PROF USED TO BE A REAL JERK UP UNTIL RECENTLY.
DID YOU KNOW THAT?
"DON'T YOU DO THIS ALL THE TIME WITH THE PROFESSOR?"
...I DIDN'T KNOW...
BUT... WHILE WE HAVEN'T KISSED, WE HAVE DONE OTHER STUFF.
THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT ?!
That's absurd!
Lectures like a merciless Spartan.
BX 2
We can't understand him His writings terrible
Speaks at 60 mph, and ditches the seminars.
I'm lost
Doesn't like students Doesn't attend their presentations
BX 1
Doesn't even try to be a mentor
It's a hassle. Go by yourself
Got it?
THE STUDENTS HATED HIM!
HE'S A FIRST-CLASS RESEARCHER, BUT A ROTTEN TEACHER!
HE SEEMS MORE RELAXED.
BUT RECENTLY, HE'S TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF.
Now for the next problem...
Oh, give it a shot. You might get it right
Okay?

OR DID YOU MEAN SOMETHING ELSE?
HE WAS A LITTLE DRUNK, SO I FIGURED I SHOULD TAKE CARE OF HIM.
SOME-THING ELSE?
YES, IS SOMETHING ELSE BOTHERING YOU?
UH, WHAT?
GUESS I'LL SAY GOOD NIGHT.
OOOH— SCARY!
L..
h

IT'S FUNNY... HEARING THAT HE'S CHANGED ACTUALLY MAKES ME STRANGELY... HAPPY.
I'M SO FULL OF MYSELF.
UH-OH.
OH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YIKES! NO UNDER-WEAR!
WHOA!
WHY ARE YOU DRUNK?
UH, NARUSAWA-SAN?
Sigh
GRRR...
WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU MAD ABOUT SOME-THING?
C'MON!
Answer me!
NUDGE
YOU'RE DRUNK.
Bear breath!
I'M NOT THE ONLY DRUNK IN THIS ROOM.
Huh?
A BUNCH OF YOUR STUDENTS INVITED ME TO A PARTY.
YOU SHOULD'VE SAID YOU WERE UNDERAGE.
YOU GET ALL TOUCHY-FEELY WHEN YOU DRINK. IT'S SO OBVIOUS!
Pervert!
All this bickering!
NO, I'M NOT.
NO, I'M NOT.
YES, YOU ARE.

DIDN'T YOU COME TO SEE ME?
ARE YOU GOING HOME?
WELL, YEAH.
I HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY, TOO. GOOD NIGHT.
YOU SHOULD GO TO SLEEP.
Pervert
YOU FLEW OUT HERE, SO WHY NOT GO SIGHT-SEEING?
DO YOU KNOW WHY I CAME?
NARU-SAWA-SAN
TO SEE ME, RIGHT?
UH, WELL...
I knew he was drunk!
OR DID YOU JUST WANT TO BITCH ME OUT, THEN TAKE A WALK?
N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
ENOUGH!
NUDGE

SO DON'T WORRY.
SHIN-ICHIRO...
BOYS YOUR AGE GET A HARD-ON JUST FROM DROPPING THEIR CHOPSTICKS.
IT'S OKAY.
AND HERE I'M SO DRUNK I CAN'T GET IT UP.
Don't lecture me!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH!
C'MON! NARUSAWA-SAN!
WHOA, UH...
I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING....
BACK OFF A LITTLE, WOULD YOU? NARUSAWA-SAN, PLEASE.
WHAT? NOW YOU CAN'T LEAVE ...
AAAAH! HANDS OFF, YOU DRUNK!
I DEFINITELY DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING!
UH... NO TOUCHING.
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
IT'S NOT!
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE WHERE YOUR HANDS WENT.
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH ME.
SHINICHIRO, YOU...
NNGH!
.....

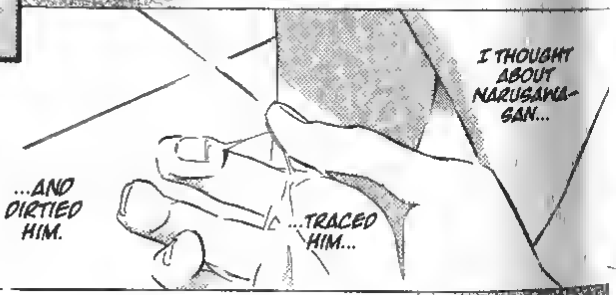
SQUEEZE
.....
HAA...
NNGH.
Shhhh...
Slam
SHIN-ICHIRO?
TOILET!
THIS SUCKS!
SUCKS, SUCKS...
...SUCKS!!
I'M SO HUMILIATED
Aw, man.
AND HE NOTICED!
WHY'D I HAVE TO GET HARD LIKE THAT?

PART OF MY HEART...

TO BE HONEST...

...PART OF MY HEART ALREADY KNEW.

IT WONDERED IF NARUSAWA-SAN FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME.



I'M THE ONE...

EXCUSES CAN'T ERASE THE TRUTH.

MAYBE HIS STUDENTS STIRRED UP MY FEELINGS.

IT'S ME.

MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS DRUNK.

TCH!

.....
THE MEANING OF...
...THAT RESTLESS PAIN.
...AND SENSED THE TRUTH ABOUT MY FEELINGS.
...WHO WATCHED HIS SLEEPING FACE...
SEE? EVEN NOW.
MY HEART'S POUNDING.
TELLING ME TO TOUCH HIM.
TELLING ME I WANT TO TOUCH HIM.
HA HA.
HAAAH..
MY HEART HURTS.
SOMETIMES I RUMINATE OVER ALL THIS, AND REALIZE...
I LOVE HIM.
I CATCH MYSELF THINKING THESE THINGS.
I WRAP MY ARMS AROUND HIS WAIST.
MY HAND REACHES OUT AND TOUCHES THE NAPE OF HIS NECK.
"NARUSAWA-SAN CHANGED?"
"WE THINK IT'S YOUR INFLUENCE."
JUST THE THOUGHT MADE ME HAPPY.

I LOVE NARUSAWA-SAN.
BUT THOSE WORDS...
...ARE PROBABLY BEST LEFT UNSAID.
WHAT'S UP?
NO. I WAS THINKING ABOUT ACHT.
HMM?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. ARE YOU HUNGRY?
Hmm
LEAVE IT ALONE.
What's wrong with worrying?
WHAT?
YOU'RE SO STUBBORN.
ACHT.
NOW I UNDERSTAND HOW ACHT FEELS.
IS THIS TEEN ANGST?
Hey

BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
SOMEDAY...
BZZZ
IT SURE IS HOT.
HOT, HOT, HOT.
FINISHED YOUR HOMEWORK ALREADY?
HELLO!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOMEWORK?
ALL BUT PHYSICS. I BARELY EVEN STARTED THAT.
I FIGURED YOU'D HELP ME, NARUSAWA-SAN.
You sound so certain
HEH HEH.
CLASSES START TOMORROW. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

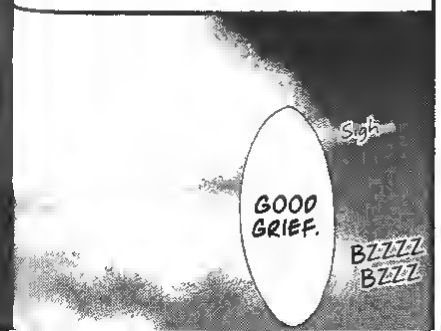
"I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD TIME."
LOCKED IN THE BOX...
SUFFOCATED. THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL DESPAIR.
ZERO IS NOT THE ONLY POSSIBILITY.
BUT IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN ZERO, EITHER.
Heh heh
"TO TRY FINDING THE OLD MAN"
..WHY DON'T WE GO PLAY WITH FLAPPY AND ACHT? JUST THE FOUR OF US.
WHEN WE GET HOME...
YEAH.
GOOD IDEA. LET'S DO IT.
UM...
MAYBE I'LL FIND THAT COURAGE SOMEDAY.
ACHT DECIDED TO OPEN THE BOX HIMSELF.

DID I SCARE YOU, DID I SCARE YOU?
NICE CATCH!
HUH? HUH?
AAAAH!
AAAA
AAAH!
Huh?
WHAT?
WHAT?
What's that noise?
AH!
Hmm...
BUT... YOUR BIRTHDAY'S THE LAST DAY OF SUMMER
Poor kid
HM? ME?
I DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT.
How'd you know?
WELL.
SUUUURR...
...PRIIIISE!
DID YOU KNOW?
Narunaru tied it for me
I'M THE PRESENT!
LOOK AT THE RIBBON!
Look, look!
HEH HEH HEH!
NOTHING BETTER THAN A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE PARTY!
Did I scare you?
HEY! SHIN-CHAN!
Huh?
.....?
SHIN-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?
Or are you too happy to speak?

IN LOVE? WHO?
.....
HUMANS ARE HEARTLESS WHEN THEY'RE IN LOVE.
BUT IF I DIDN'T COME HOME, YOU'D FORGET ME.
AW, YOU LIKED ALL THE NICE PEACE AND QUIET!
I'd been in the way
Hee hee

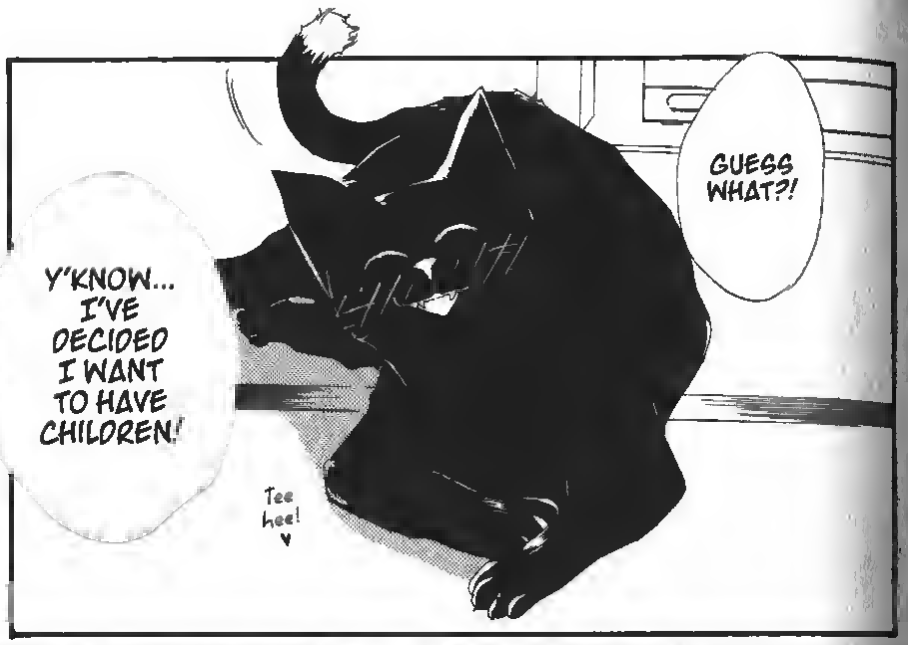
What can I do?
SHIN-CHAN WAS SO SURPRISED, HE TOOK OFF!
HE'S CUTE WHEN HE CRIES.
Ha ha ha.
THAT'S WHY I SAID TO GREET HIM NORMALLY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH PUTTING ON A SHOW?
For our glorious reunion!

Acht, you jerk!!



Voice or Noise
call 08

Bzzz
BZZZ
Aww
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE HIM CRY.
AWW, I FEEL BAD FOR SHIN-CHAN.
Aww
Aww!
HE'S SO CLUELESS!
BY THE WAY...
UH...
I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK.
call»07 END



Voice of Noise

SO, ACHT...
DO YOU EVEN HAVE A PARTNER?
DOES IT LOOK LIKE I HAVE ONE?!
A PARTNER, YOU ASK?!
C'mon!
On temporary house arrest.
OH.
THAT'S A PROBLEM.
I can't give up on it!
C'mere, c'mere
I WANNA GET OUTTA HERE!
WHAT IS IT, NARUSAWA-SAN?
HM?
WE TAKE A SAMPLE OF ACHT'S CELLS, FROM HIS MOUTH.
I HAVE A GREAT IDEA.
AND GIVE IT TO MY FRIEND ITOU.
AHHH!
THEY'RE SO TINY AND SOFT... AND THEY'D BE NICE AND BLACK, LIKE ME!
I DO! HEH HEH.
CH-CHILDREN?!
WHO WANTS?!
AUTUMN, THE MATING SEASON OF CATS.
IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR.
Nnnnn...
Uwaaaan
OOOOH, I WANT KIDS, KIDS, TONS OF KIDS!
I DUNNO...
IS HE ALL RIGHT?

YEAH?
SHIN-ICHIRO
I HOPE HE CALMS DOWN BEFORE THE NEXT TIME I COME BACK
I'D BETTER GET HOME.
A SCRATCH
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DID THAT.
HOLD ON, I'LL GET THE FIRST AID KIT.
NO, IT'S OKAY!
I REALLY HAVE TO GO HOME NOW!
S-SEE YOU LATER!
I JUST WANT TO HAVE SEXXX!
WHAT'S THIS CRAP ABOUT CLONES?!
Aaan!
Yikes!
ACHT! ACHT!
Gosh!
PUT MY XXX IN HER XXX, FOR A XXXING GOOD TIME!
TAKE 'ER IN THE REAR AND XXX, THEN A LITTLE XXX!
OW, OW, OW!
What are you saying?!
FALL--THE MATING SEASON.
Nyaaaaah!
Oooh!
HUH?
What do you mean?
?
THEN WE SIT BACK AND WAIT.
I'M SURE HE COULD CLONE A CAT OR TWO.
HE'S THE GUY WHO CLONES SHEEP.
THAT'S A TERRIBLE IDEA!!
IS THAT NATURAL?
Hm.
REALLY?
Nyaaah!

AND YET I STILL WANT TO SEE HIM.
I'M SO WEIRD.
YO. LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
Ha ha
YOU HAVE THE FACE OF A MAN SEEKING FAVORS
OH, IT'S YOU. WHAT'S UP?
You look happy
AND YET...
I GET TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T STAND IT ANY-LONGER, AND I WANT TO RUN AWAY!
LATELY, IT'S BECOME HARD TO BREATHE WHEN I'M WITH HIM.
.....

HUH? WHAT?
WHAT?
SHIN-CHAN, Y'KNOW... MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK MORE DIRECTLY.
PLEASE, DOCTOR, GET BACK TO WORK.
HERE'S YOUR MEDICINE, MATSUI-SAN
Grr!
SOME-TIMES...
I GET THE URGE TO...
...STICK A COLLAR ON HIM AND TUG HIM AROUND ON A LEASH.
A COL-LAR?
OR, IF I WERE HIS DOG, I'D BARK TO SCARE OFF STRANGERS.
THOSE ARE UNEXPECTED FANTASIES, COMING FROM YOU.
SMIRK
YOU WANT TO BE HIS LOVER, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T THINK NARUSAWA-SAN UNDERSTANDS HOW TACT WORKS
YUP.
WELL, YOU SEE
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD HELP ME PICK OUT A CAT
PREFERABLY, A BLACK FEMALE
Got one?
AND WHY NOW?
THIS ISN'T SOME BAR WHERE YOU CAN JUST PLACE AN ORDER.
.....
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
UH, I'M LISTENING
This one's a lunkhead too
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF NARUNARU, SNIN-CHAN?
HE'S SUCH A LUNKHEAD, YOU HAVE TO SPELL EVERYTHING OUT.
IT WAS A MISTAKE SENDING NARUNARU ON A DELICATE EMOTIONAL TASK.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

Hmm?
WHY?
...I COULD NEVER BE HIS LOVER.
BUT...
Nya ha ha ha!
I'LL LET YOU HANDLE NARUNARU MORE.
YOU'RE A GOOD KID, SHIN-CHAN.
Nice personality!
ANIMALS ARE DRIVEN TO PRESERVE THEIR SPECIES. WHY NOT ACT MORE LIKE A HUMAN?
ACK...
BUT...
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CONSERVATIVE? I DON'T GET YOU.
HUH?
BUT TWO GUYS CAN'T HAVE KIDS, SO IT'S WEIRD
YOU SAID YOU WANTED CHILDREN, ACHT. THAT'S NATURAL.

LO--
LOVER?! WHOSE?!
CUT ME SOME SLACK.
YOU CAN'T FOOL THE NOSE OF THE GREAT ACHT-SAMA! Heh heh heh!
DON'T LIE TO YOURSELF. I CAN SMELL A MALE IN HEAT.
IT CAN'T BE...
I WAS...
...TALKING TO THE CAT.
WHAT IS IT?
WELL, YOU'VE BEEN TALKING TO YOURSELF.
FOR THE LAST FEW MINUTES.
Ha ha ha
NOT AT ALL. I WAS TALKING TO THE CAT.
EXCUSE ME?
She got me
Nyaaah
PFFT!

I WANT TO BE IN MY OWN PLACE.
I WANT TO RETURN TO MY OWN HOME.
I WANT TO GO HOME.
ACHT.
Your own place..?
Hey
NO!
IS THAT WHY YOU WANT KIDS?
ACHT, COME OVER HERE.
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT, SHIN-CHAN.
OKAY.
LISTEN, SHIN-CHAN.
Haven't stepped apart for some time
ARE YOU GOING TO LET THAT GEEZER IKEGAMI STEAL YOUR MAN?
.....
Ick! So brazen
I DIDN'T RETURN TO THIS WORLD BECAUSE I GAVE UP ON MY SEARCH FOR THE OLD MAN.
...THERE MAY BE A WORLD WHERE MY OWNER IS STILL ALIVE.
IN PARALLEL WORLDS, LINKED BY INSTABILITY, SHIFTING LITTLE BY LITTLE...
...SOMEWHERE...
WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TO GO HOME.
BUT...
WHAT I WANTED...

I'M NOT SURE, BUT I THINK THE CAT'S BEING COCKY.
BWA HA HA HA!
DON'T WORRY. SHOW ME THE WAY.
TIME FOR MY HOT DATE!
.....
IT'S A LONG ROAD TO PARENT-HOOD
GUESS HE TOOK OFF.
SO?
HOW'D IT TURN OUT? ARE YOU GETTING ALONG WITH THE KID?
YEAH, I GUESS
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT JUST USING HIM AS A SUBSTITUTE PILLOW.
Sigh
YOU THINK I'D DO THAT?
.....
...TO HAVE SOMEONE NOTICE THAT.
IT'S AWKWARD ...
You stopped?
WELL?

IF YOU WAIT AROUND, STARING INTO SPACE...
ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN TO YOUR PLACE
TRY NOT TO REGRET ANYTHING...
'KAY?
DUNNO.
SHIN-ICHIRO?

マクドナルド ハンバーガー
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
TAAAKAAAHAASHI!!!
ガタガタガタ
CLK CLK CLK CLK CLK CLK
BEEP
HEY, TAKAHASHI?
UH-HUH.
LISTEN WHEN I TALK TO YOU!
HMM?
Long time no see! Wanna grab a bite to eat?
ばったり
It was just a coincidence
INVITED YOU?
YOU INVITED ME HERE, AND NOW YOU'RE IGNORING ME!

"IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! I SWEAR, IT'S NOT!"
"AH!"
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY...
SHUT UP
HEY, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
YOU KNOW HOW YOU'RE REACTING TO THIS, RIGHT?
...YOU SHOULD CONGRATULATE ME ON MY SELF-CONTROL
ANYWAY...
THERE'RE SOME THINGS I HAVE TO CLEAR UP.
MY GOODNESS. YOU'VE BECOME A CRIMINAL.
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YET"?
"Yet"?
Sigh
A high school lover? I don't want to see it on the news.
THE AGE DIFFERENCE IS TOUCH
That's hilarious coming from you!
BWA HA HA HA!
call 08 END

WOW.
AMAZING
WHAT A COINCIDENCE

Voice or Noise
09

WERE YOU TEXTING YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
...JUST A FRIEND.
LIAR.
SERIOUSLY. SHE'S A FEMALE FRIEND
HMM.

I WISH I HAD A GIRL-FRIEND.
Lucky
THEN YOU SHOULD GO GET ONE.
LIKE IT'S THAT EASY...
OH.
SHIN-ICHIRO-KUN?
HUH?
HI THERE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

NO PROBLEM.
It was delicious
Give me back my first kiss!
...AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.
WELL, FIRST...
...THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF ME...
OH, IS THAT SO?

When you did you two become friends?
This guy
HE'S MY BIG BROTHER.
Yep I'm his big brother
.. DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
BY THE WAY...
GRR!
BUT BECAUSE OF YOU---
HUH?
Gaaaaah
NO WAY!
TOO SMALL
IT'S A SMALL WORLD.

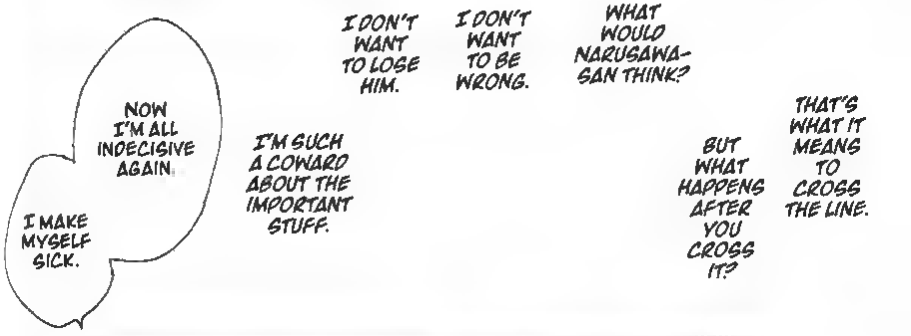
THE PROFESSOR.
EXCUSE ME?
Who I break up with?
AND YOU WERE IN SUCH A GOOD POSITION AFTER--
THIS GUY STARTED IT ALL!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE HOTEL THAT NIGHT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

BEEP
BEEP
I SEEM TO HAVE STUMBLED ON A CONVERSATION THAT'S HARD TO IGNORE
Is it true?
WHAT?
Huh?
THE GIRL-FRIEND CHAT.
DID YOU TWO BREAK UP? THAT WAS FAST.
WHAT'S IT MEAN?
OH, THAT.

SPEAKING OF WHICH..
...I LEFT ACHT AFTER THAT.
I WONDER HOW HIS MARRIAGE INTERVIEW'S GOING.
HUH?
YOUR FEELINGS WEREN'T CLEAR BACK THEN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "CLEAR"?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I THINK I WANT A GIRL-FRIEND
DATING A GIRL.
A GIRL...
Heh Heh
"A GIRLFRIEND..."
ARGH!
I GUESS MY FEELINGS ARE ALREADY PRETTY CLEAR.
I WANT NARUSAWA-SAN.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY WANTING A "GIRLFRIEND."
I THINK OF NARUSAWA-SAN AS MY "GIRLFRIEND."
SO--!
I KNOW MY DESIRES...
..BUT THAT DOESN'T HELP!

I'M GOING HOME!
First things first. Home. Yup
FLAP
THAT'S IT!
NO...WAY...

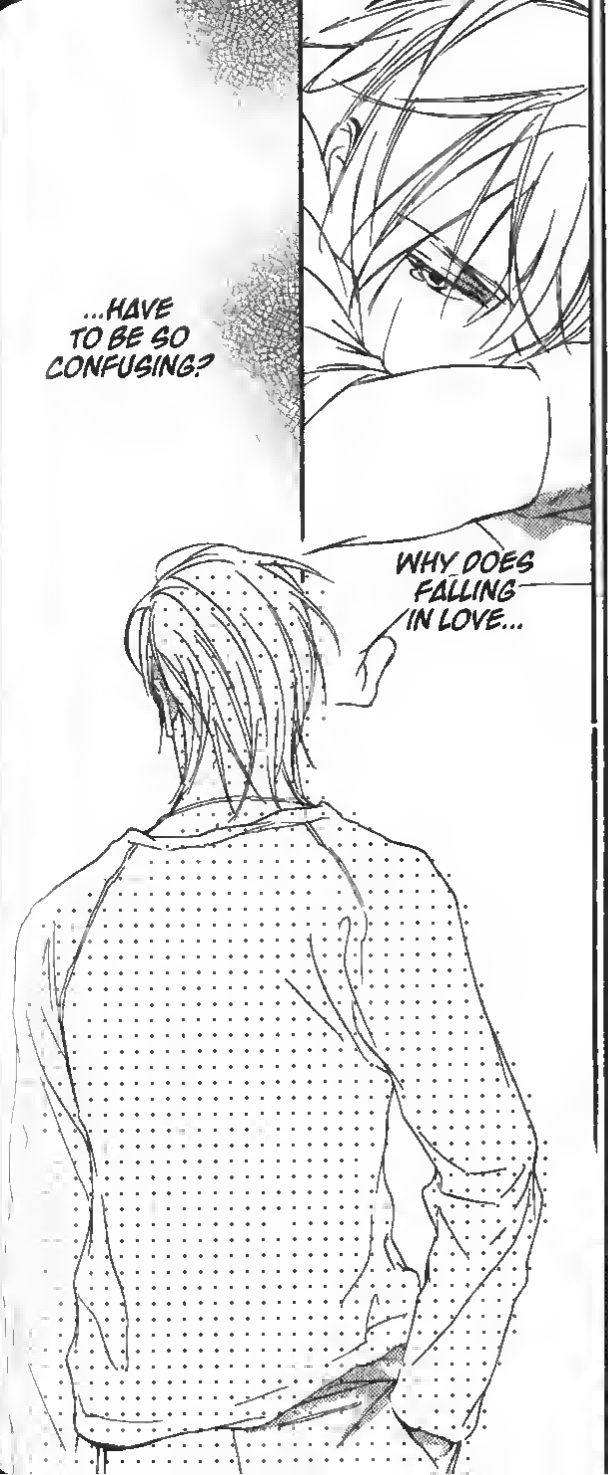
Sigh
IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO SAY WHEN IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM.
IF YOU WANT A GIRLFRIEND, THEN TELL HER
Clueless
Then come crying back to me!
YEAH, GO FOR BROKE!

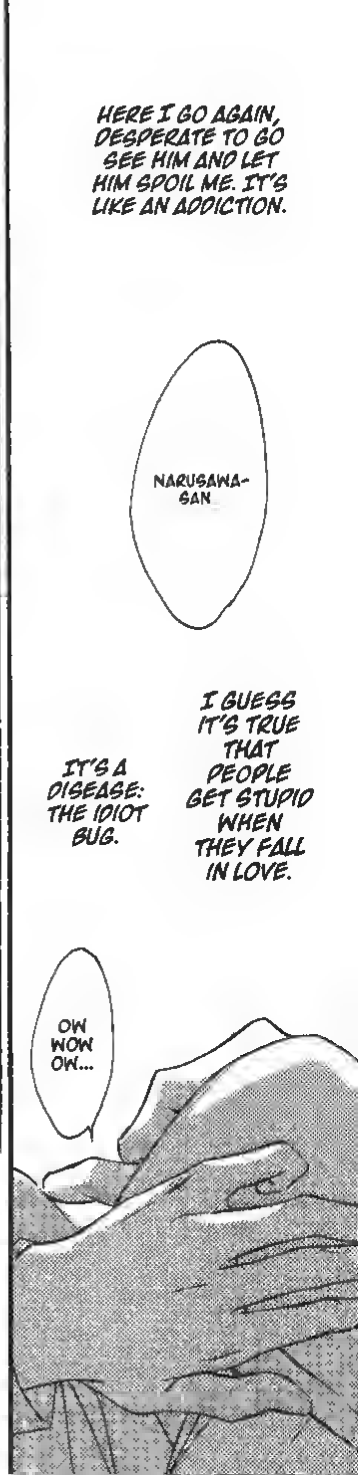

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO BE WRONG.
WHAT WOULD NARUSAWA-SAN THINK?
NOW I'M ALL INDECISIVE AGAIN.
I'M SUCH A COWARD ABOUT THE IMPORTANT STUFF.
I MAKE MYSELF SICK.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU CROSS IT?
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO CROSS THE LINE.

Aho!
Aho!
Aho!*
FINAL BLOW!
*"aho" = crow caw and "idiot"

Sigh
OKAY I'M GOING TO SLEEP NOW
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER INJURIES? DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR INSURANCE CARD TO THE HOSPITAL.
Are you sure you're okay?
OW...
WHAT THE HELL...?
?!
Yeargh
WAAAAAH!
IT HURTS, IT HURTS, IT HURTS!!
AT LEAST THE SITUATION CAN'T GET ANY WORSE.
OH, NARUSAWA-SAN, IT HURTS SO MUCH.
Huff.
MOM, I'M HOME
YOU BROKE YOUR WRIST?!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
You fell?
ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE ELSE?

Gasp!
I MADE YOU RICE SOUP, SO EAT IT WITH YOUR MEDICINE.
WATCH OUT, IT'S HOT
CAN YOU EAT? DO YOU FEEL SICK?
GRMPH!
UH-OH. YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER.
WHY--
YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY IN BED UNTIL YOUR FEVER GOES DOWN.
MOMMY HAS TO GO TO HER JOB NOW.
HE LOOKS A BIT OUT OF IT I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY, AFTER YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE
HUH? NARUSAWA SAN?
YOU OKAY?


...HAVE TO BE SO CONFUSING?
WHY DOES FALLING IN LOVE...

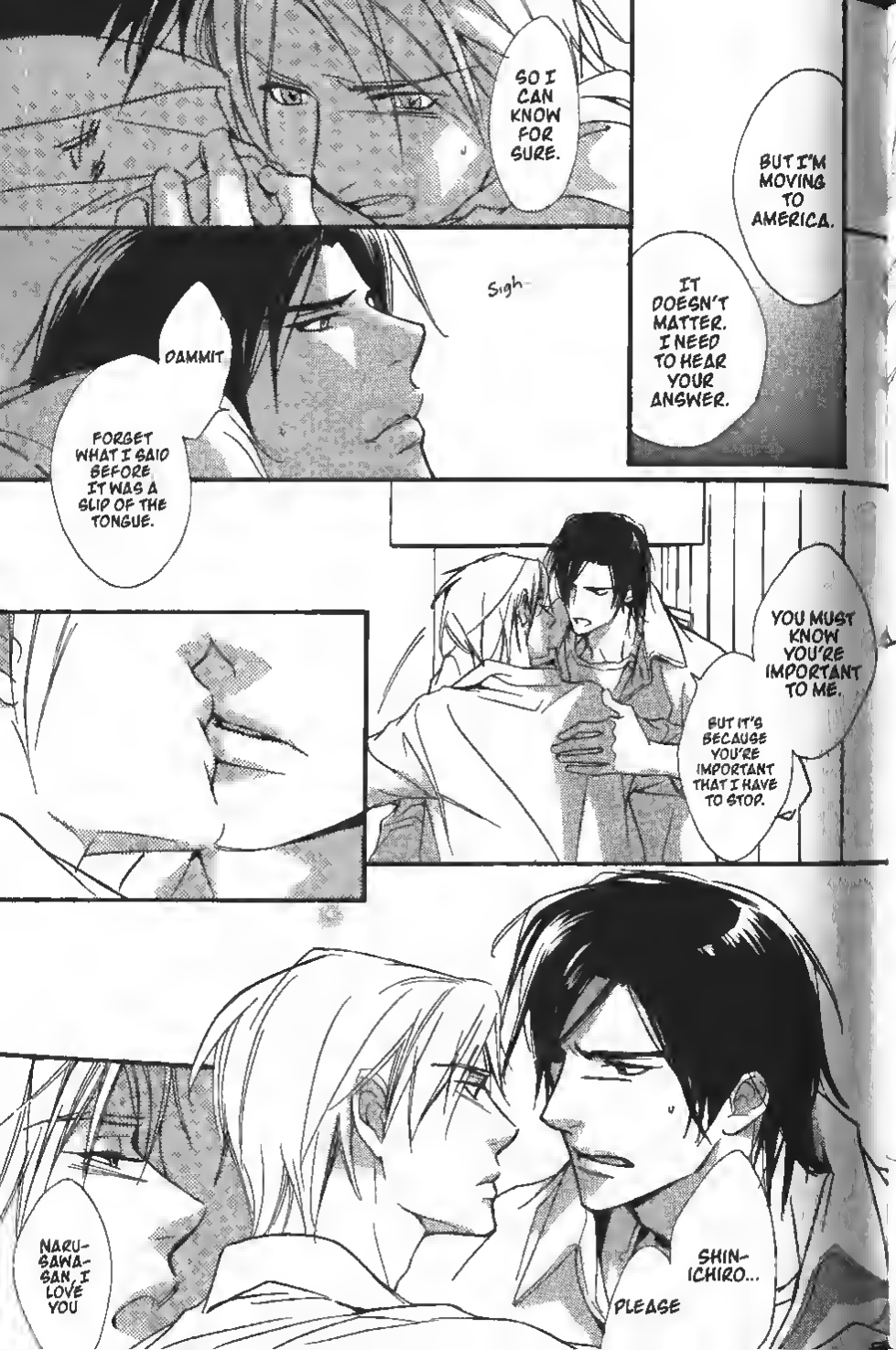

HERE I GO AGAIN, DESPERATE TO GO SEE HIM AND LET HIM SPOIL ME. IT'S LIKE AN ADDICTION.
NARUSAWA-SAN
I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT PEOPLE GET STUPID WHEN THEY FALL IN LOVE.
IT'S A DISEASE: THE IDIOT BUG.
OW WOW OW...

I CAN EAT ON MY OWN!
I...
YOU SURE?
You're no fun
NNN
IS THIS...A DREAM?
Oh no, look at the time!
I'LL BE BACK FOR LUNCH
THANKS AGAIN!
SLAM
Heh
YOUR MOTHER'S AWFULLY FIDGETY, SHIN-ICHIRO
UM...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
TO SEE HOW YOU ARE, OF COURSE.
WHY?
HERE, I'LL FEED YOU
STILL IN DREAM-LAND.
SHIN-ICHIRO?
UMM

POUNDING...
YOU KNOW...
...WHAT I'M GETTING AT, RIGHT?
EVERY EVENING EVERY NIGHT
...CAN'T SLEEP, BECAUSE I'M THINKING ABOUT YOU.
...I...
MY HEART'S POUNDING. IT'S SO HOT.
EVERY NIGHT...
ARE YOU OKAY?
CAN YOU SLEEP WITHOUT YOUR SHINICHIRO-PILLOW?
...HOW ARE YOU SLEEPING?
B-BY THE WAY...
THE PLACES WHERE WE ARE CONNECTED... FEEL SO INCREDIBLY HOT.

I KNOW HOW CLUELESS YOU CAN BE...
NARU-SAWA-SAN
NARU-SAWA-SAN
HOLD IT!
YOU CAN STAY LONGER!
YOU JUST GOT HERE!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER COME HERE!
WHY NOT?!
I DIDN'T WANT TO FACE YOUR PARENTS.
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T WANT TO COME.
IF I WERE A PARENT, I'D KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT IS TO LEAVE THE TWO OF US ALONE TOGETHER.
I THINK YOU KNOW...
..WHAT I'M GETTING AT, RIGHT?
SEE YOU
Huh!
NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR MEDI-CINE, YOU SHOULD REST
I'LL DROP BY AGAIN LATER.
W-WHY?!
HUH?

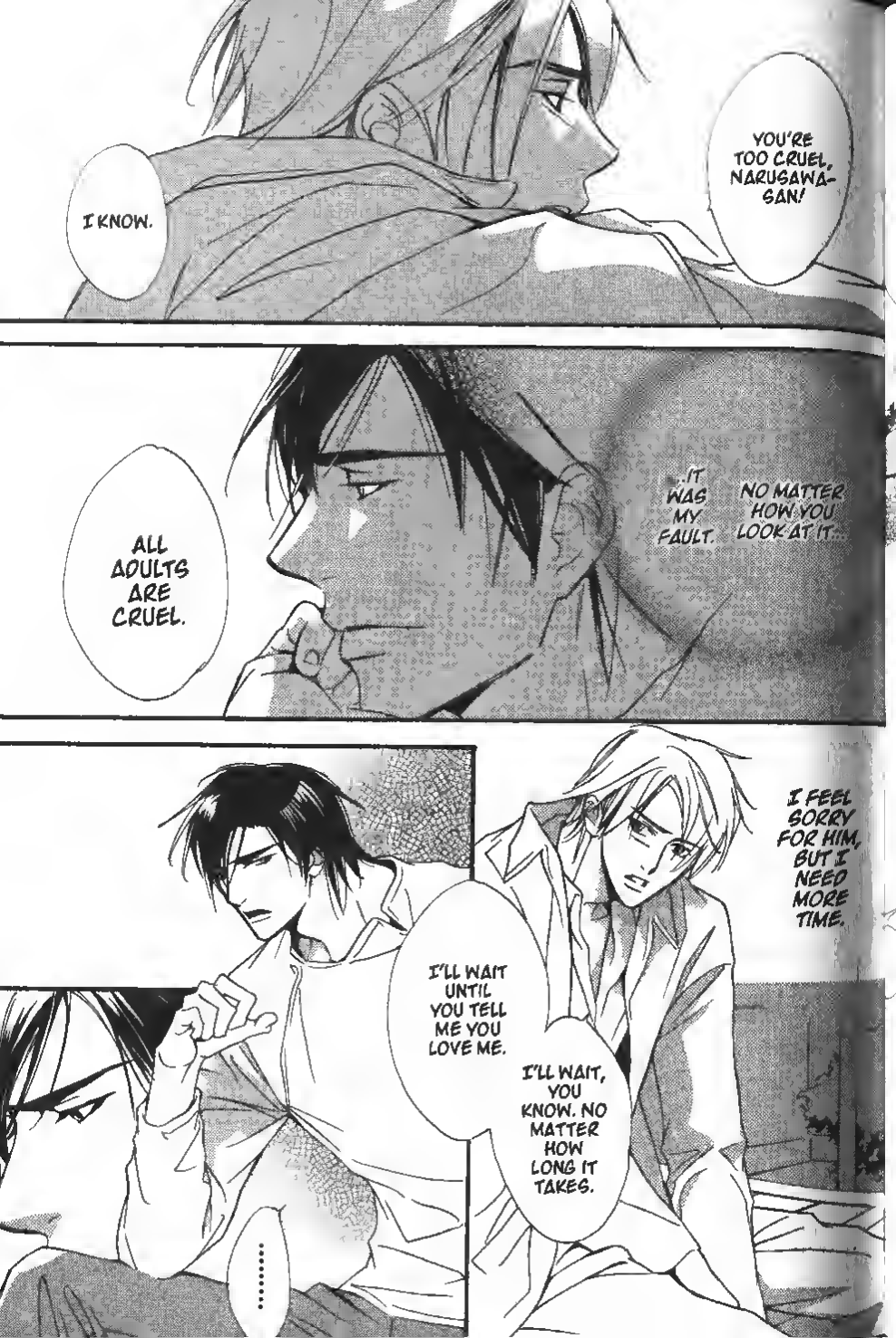
I'M GOING TO AMERICA NEXT MONTH.
I'M REPLACING A PROFESSOR THERE WHO'S ON SABBATICAL I'LL BE GONE FOR THREE YEARS, AT LEAST
I WON'T SEE YOU FOR A WHILE.
WHAT?
THREE YEARS. YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT ME.
AND I'M ALL RIGHT WITH THAT
WHAT
...ARE YOU SAYING—
THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU.
I'LL GO NOW.
NARUSAWA-SAN!
OF COURSE
IS IT REALLY DANGEROUS
FOR US TO BE ALONE TOGETHER?
SHEESH
YOU'RE EVEN DUMBER THAN ME.
WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WAIT A MINUTE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HUH?
YES.
Point blank!
SHIN-ICHIRO.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANTED ME TO DO SOMETHING?
Hmph
WHA—?
..AT THE HOTEL.
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
BUT ...


SO I CAN KNOW FOR SURE.
BUT I'M MOVING TO AMERICA.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I NEED TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER.
Sigh
DAMMIT
FORGET WHAT I SAID BEFORE IT WAS A SLIP OF THE TONGUE.
YOU MUST KNOW YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME.
BUT IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE IMPORTANT THAT I HAVE TO STOP.
NARU-SAWA-SAN, I LOVE YOU
SHIN-ICHIRO...
PLEASE

THIS IS ALL SO FAST. I DON'T GET IT.
EXPLAIN IT TO ME. FROM THE TOP.
NO, YOU CAN'T LEAVE!
NO!
YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IT ONCE I'VE LEFT.
THE SOUND OF HIS HEART IS SO LOUD.
YES.
I...
I WANT YOU, NARUSAWA-SAN.
I HAVE TO HEAR IT.
I HAVE TO HEAR HIS ANSWER.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Sigh...
YOU'RE SO...
Shoosh
NARU--
SO...
WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT, AGAIN?
A long time ago
You're awful, Narusawa-san
When did you decide to go to America?
By the way
ABOUT ADULTS BEING DISHONEST.
YEAH, I KNOW

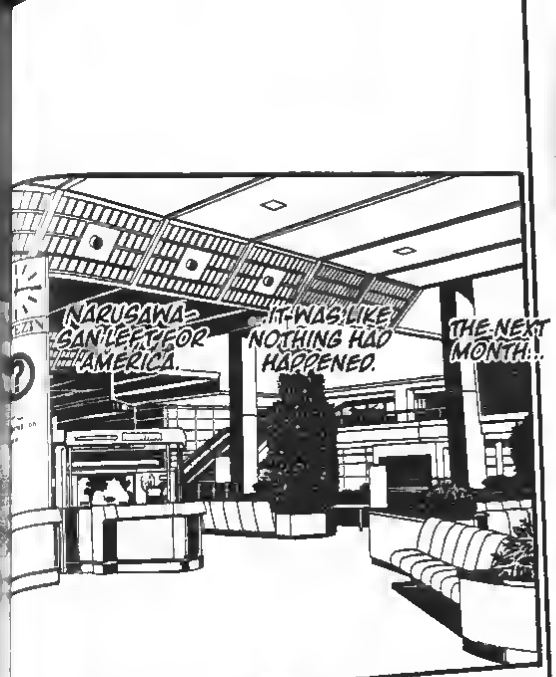
I LOVE YOU.
YOU'RE A KID. YOU SHOULDN'T PROVOKE ME.
YOU LITTLE--
...I CAN'T TOUCH YOU.
I TOLD YOU YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME.
AND THAT'S WHY...
MMM
NARU-SAWA-SAN...
I LOVE YOU.
MMM
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
YES..


I KNOW.
YOU'RE TOO CRUEL, NARUSAWA-SAN!
ALL ADULTS ARE CRUEL.
...IT WAS MY FAULT.
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...
I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU TELL ME YOU LOVE ME.
I'LL WAIT, YOU KNOW. NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.
.....
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, BUT I NEED MORE TIME.

Sigh...
WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. ;(;(
It's too late for that
PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
Heh heh?
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'D DO INSTEAD?
BECAUSE INSIDE, WE WOULDN'T GET ANY TALKING DONE.
WHY ARE YOU OUTSIDE? WHY NOT TALK INSIDE?
NARUSAWA-SAN...
...IT'S YOUR FAULT.
I THINK.
...I THINK...
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT
Whaaat?!
ARE YOU STILL SAYING THAT?!
CAN'T YOU WAIT THREE YEARS FOR MY ANSWER?
SHEESH
That hurt
ANSWERED WHAT?
Dummy!
BUT YOU NEVER ANSWERED.
IT'S NOT FAIR. I SAID IT.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP!
...NARUSAWA-SAN'S HEART...
...WAS RACING TOO.
BACK THEN...
I KNOW...
...I'LL REMEMBER IT..
.. OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
THE HEAT OF THAT MOMENT.
THE THROBBING.
THE HEAVY BREATHING.

Oh! He says he can come back for a month this summer
The zoo?!
IT WAS JUST A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL WE WENT TO THE ZOO
WELL..
YOU WENT OUT WITH SOMEONE ON SUNDAY?
I'D NEVER GO TO A PLACE LIKE THAT!
Let's see
Well I didn't invite you
...NARUSAWA-SAN AND I OFTEN SPOKE ON THE PHONE, AND EXCHANGED TONS OF LETTERS.
I CALLED, AND E-MAILED TOO!
YOU WEREN'T HOME ON CHRISTMAS DAY, NARUSAWA-SAN
HOW COULD I EVER HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO FORGET HIM?
I TOLD HIM I LIKED IT, AND THAT ALWAYS PUT HIM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
HE WANTED ME TO CHECK UP ON YOU
Narusawa-san!! Bad idea!
Want some tea?
Hey there!
OH! WE RUN INTO EACH OTHER AN AWFUL LOT
Er
AND THEN ...
THAT WAS HIS ANSWER.
Heh heh.


NARUSAWA-SAN LEFT FOR AMERICA.
IT WAS LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.
THE NEXT MONTH...

I WONDER IF HE THINKS I WON'T BE ABLE TO WAIT.
I'LL JUST LET HIM THINK THAT.
ARE THINGS REALLY ON HOLD UNTIL HE GETS BACK?
Heh

ALLOW ME MY ADULT SELFISHNESS, JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
WHATEVER MAKES YOU HAPPY.

Postscript

We've made it to the second volume. What did you think of it? Thank you for reading this far.

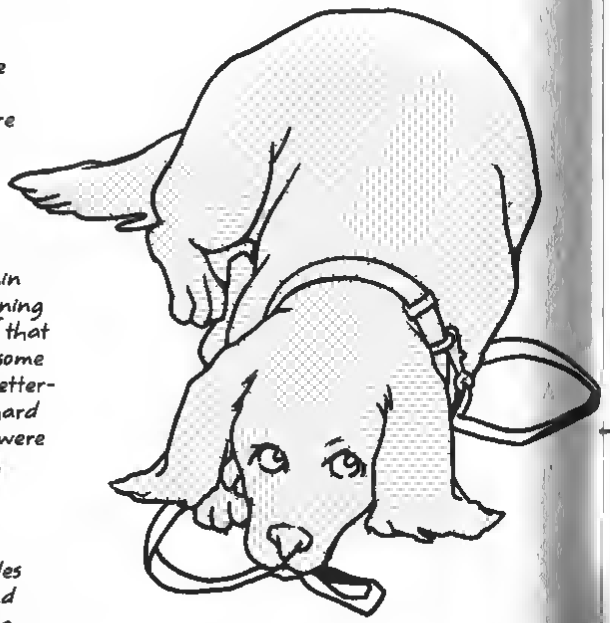
I somehow managed to reach the end, and I'm having some personal down time now. I'm sure some readers out there are thinking, "It's not over yet!" I completely understand.

I'm sure there are some parts where I didn't provide enough foreshadowing, or didn't explain enough about Shinichiro's training or love story. (Though some of that was intentional.) There were some places that could have been better-executed, but I tried to work hard to correct that, so I hope you were able to enjoy it to some extent.

As far as my plans go, this story will continue. How will Shinichiro and Narusawa's roles as "understanding friends" and "lovers" end up? Will Narusawa get over his distrust of people, and rediscover the love inside himself? And what of the boundary conditions for "voices" and "noises"?

...And so, that's how (what? really?) I plan on having other animals appear. I want more excuses for them to talk. Yeah. I hope we meet again in the future. Until then!

2004.11 Yamimaru Enjin



Begging to go out on a walk.

I almost forgot that Flappy's in the story, so I thought I'd at least include him in the postscript.

SHINICHIRO! WE CAME TO PLAY!
La dee da!
THEY SAY DISTANCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER.
HEY, NARUSAWA-SAN.
HI, THERE!
I'VE GROWN SINCE THEN.
MAYBE I'LL GROW UP INTO A SNEAKY ADULT, LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME.
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO COME HERE ALONE?
DADDY'S COMING LATER.
OH.
This is exactly what I studied so hard for
SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE.
YUP, NOT MUCH LONGER NOW.
Huh huh! ♡
Goodness!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO RUN AHEAD BY YOURSELF
NOIN, THERE YOU ARE!
SO THE GOOD-FOR-NOTHING'S COMING BACK?
That was quick!
OH, SHIN-CHAN!
Heh heh heh!
Meow
Meow
call »09 END

YES, IT WOULD.
HUM
PH!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT
DID YOU TWO HAVE A FIGHT?
WOULD THAT BE SO BAD?
BUT IF I ALWAYS RELY ON HIM...
ASK NARUSAWA-SAN, LIKE YOU USUALLY DO.
Ack.
QUIT LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT.
I know you blame me.
NOT REALLY.
DID YOU ASK SHINICHIRO?
WHAT?
IT'S THE WORKINGS OF FATE.
I DIDN'T INTRODUCE YOU TO THE KID SO YOU COULD GET ALL COZY WITH HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?

Voice or Noise "Special Bonus Chapter"
Mmmm...
HMMM...
UMMMM...
HE SEEMS DESPERATE TO COMMUNICATE.
Prrow!
I HAVE A CAT.
Meow.
Mrrrrrow!
It's Acht.
Meow.
Hmph!
Hee hee
ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE DR. DOLITTLE AGAIN?
IF IT WERE THAT EASY TO TALK WITH ANIMALS, OUR JOBS WOULD BE MUCH SIMPLER.
THAT'S IT. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIM.
These pitiful eyes say, "Why can't you understand me?"

SO DON'T COME CRYING TO ME WHEN YOU COME TO REGRET IT.
MORE FRAGILE THAN FRIEND-SHIP.
LOVE IS...
I KNOW, I KNOW
Heh heh
I'M SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
Cut it out!
I KNOW.

THAT'S JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM YOU.
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON LETTING THE KID GO ANYMORE, ARE YOU?
HEY, NARUAKI!
I KNOW.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULLSHIT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FATE" ?!
BUT THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
YOU'LL END UP...
...HAVING A SWEET ROMANCE.
YOU'RE SHARP.
WHAT?
YOU REALLY THINK I'M SOME SORT OF SOLITARY ESPER?
This isn't a manga.
YOU'RE TOO FOND OF DR. DOLITTLE.
Heh heh

I'M SURPRISED.
Heh heh!
THIS IS PROOF HOW HIS WILD AND DIRTY INSTINCTS ARE WEAKENING.
Just how...
AS A PARENT, YOU START BY WASHING YOUR KID'S BUM.
HUH? WHAT'S THERE TO WORRY ABOUT?
SEE?
Rawr!
YOU KNOW, TOILET TRAINING AND ALL THAT.
ABOUT ACHT...
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO RAISE KIDS.
Grr
I'm not into scat...
Lick their bums?
L-licking?
OR, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
UH.. DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
SEE, IN THE WORLD THAT ACHT CAME FROM, CATS ARE MUCH MORE CULTURED AND CIVILIZED.
OH, BUT ACHT...
...IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
THAT'S WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT YOU...
IKEGAMI-SENSEI.
Heh heh
Hmm
I DO, BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU SAY IT.
I'll believe anything at this rate
IT'S BECAUSE HE CAME FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE BY HIS SIDE AS MORE THAN "JUST A FRIEND."
BUT I NEVER ONCE EVEN IMAGINED...
I'D ALWAYS BEEN JEALOUS OF HIM.
Hmph
HE HASN'T LEARNED A DAMN THING
ALL I THOUGHT WAS...
THAT I WANTED HIM
THAT'S ALL.
MAYBE I'M THE ONE...
...WITH REGRETS.

VOICE OR NOISE VOLUME 3
Preview:

Time passes, people change, and a new character is thrown into the mix to keep Shinichiro and Narusawa on their toes! But will their relationship move forward, or will Narusawa's fear (and jealousy?!) and Shinichiro's youth continue to keep them apart?

Find out in the next volume of Voice or Noise!

YOU COULD'VE JUST ASKED NARUSAWA.
Even though we're communicating
BUT...
...WHY DID YOU ASK ME?
FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.
YOU DON'T JUST PRETEND TO ACCEPT ME.
I like that
BUT, IKEGAMI-SENSEI, THAT'S BECAUSE...
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU AN ALLOWANCE!
And I'll also treat you to dinner
...YOU'RE A VET LIKE DOCTOR DOLITTLE!
RIGHT?
Mraw
How shall I phrase it?
THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SPECIAL, I GUESS.
RAMEN
Well
NARUSAWA-SAN IS ALWAYS MORE TROUBLE THAN HE'S WORTH.
THAT NIGHT...

VOICE OR NOISE VOLUME 2

Created by Yamimaru Enjin

VOICE or NOISE Volume 2 © 2003 & 2004 by Yamimaru Enjin
All rights reserved. Original Japanese edition published by TOKUMA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD. Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with TOKUMA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

English text copyright © 2008 BLU

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 978-1-4278-0435-8

First Printing: March 2008
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

Manga
Romance

2

Can the ability to talk to animals translate into the language of love?

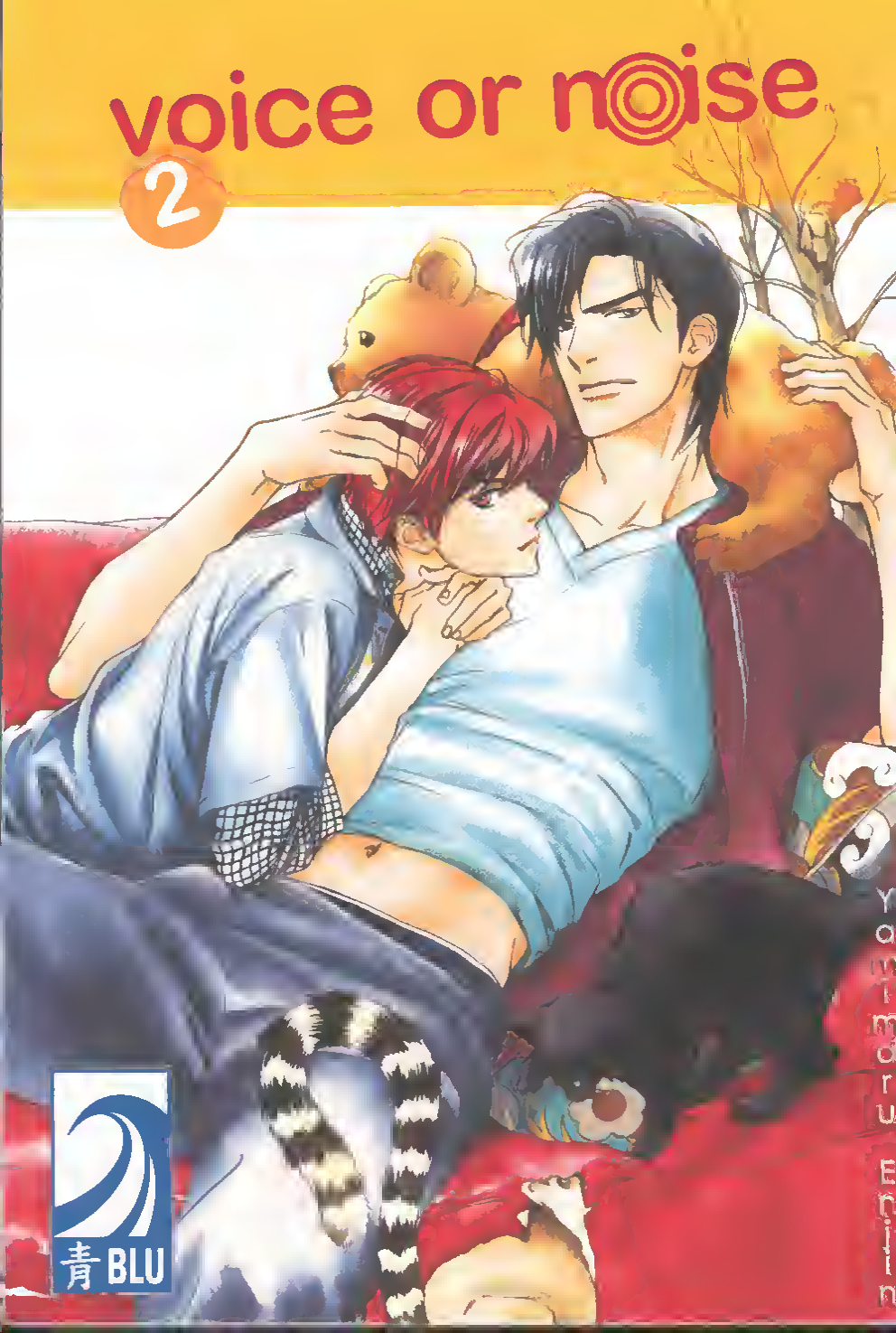
ISBN 978-1-4278-0435-8
51299
9 781427 804358

$12.99
CAN $13.99

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

voice or noise

2



青 BLU

Yamaguchi Erin